

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS OF ANATIDAE.

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The Laysan teal, *Anas laysanensis*, is a bird of considerable interest by reason of its rarity and its limited island distribution. It was originally described from the island of Laysan by Dr. Walter Rothschild in 1892;* and since then but few specimens have been obtained, and comparatively little concerning its life history has been made known.

This species has been commonly placed in the genus *Anas* Linnaeus, but recent examination of the specimens in the United States National Museum, including the Biological Survey collection, shows that it certainly does not belong in that group. As it is not referable to any other known genus, it becomes necessary to provide a new monotypic generic group for its reception, as follows:

Horizonetta, gen. nov.†

Chars. gen.—Similar to *Anas* Linnaeus, but bill more spatulate, decidedly wider terminally than at base, more depressed and slightly upturned; basal portion of culmen more elevated, narrower and more sharply ridged; nail of maxilla more triangular; lamellae of maxilla and mandible much less well developed, in places even obsolescent; and tertials relatively longer.

Type.—*Anas laysanensis* Rothschild.

Remarks.—Excepting *Anas* Linnaeus, the nearest ally of this peculiar genus is apparently *Querquedula* Stephens. From *Querquedula* it differs in having the bill much shorter, relatively broader, and somewhat more depressed, the lamellae on both maxilla and mandible very much shorter and less prominent, in some places almost obsolete; tertials longer and broader; tail double-rounded, the central pair of rectrices shorter than the adjoining pairs; middle toe without claw longer instead of shorter

* *Anas laysanensis*, Bulletin Brit. Ornith. Club, I, December 31, 1892, p. xvii (island of Laysan, Hawaiian Islands).

† From *ὄριζω*, limito; *νήττα*, anas.

than the exposed culmen; and tarsus about equal to the length of the exposed culmen instead of much shorter. It is much more unlike *Nettion* Kaup, and may be distinguished at a glance by its very much broader, somewhat more depressed and more spatulate bill; more elevated, narrower, and more sharply ridged basal portion of the culmen; more triangular nail of maxilla; much less developed lamellae of maxilla and mandible; longer and broader tertials; double-rounded tail; and by having the middle toe without claw longer than the exposed culmen; and tarsus about equal to the length of the exposed culmen.

The only species of this new genus must, therefore, now bear the name *Horizonetta laysanensis* (Rothschild).